

Thus, as the issues I outlined illustrate, the Republican attack on education moves higher education closer to being yet another Republican designed luxury for the wealthy. I think I speak for all of us when I say that our presence here tonight should be mistaken for nothing less than our determination to prevent access to higher education from moving out of the realm of Government priorities and into the realm of privileges for the few.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who benefited from student loan programs, those of us who were able to get an education, undergraduate, graduate, or professional school, realize how important it is to have these Government programs. It is very unfair for those of us who are now in Congress to be advocating these student loan programs or grant assistance programs should be terminated or cut back, particularly at a time when this country faces such competition from abroad and we know that higher education is a very valuable tool for those who want to go out and be successful and get a job in this very competitive world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am really very proud to join with several of my colleagues tonight to engage in a discussion, in a dialogue, about an

issue that really is near and dear to the hearts of, I think just about all Americans, and that is the whole issue of education and the education of children and what the future of this country is all about.

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I am the daughter of immigrant parents who, quite frankly, could only dare to dream that someday their daughter would sit in the House of Representatives. My father came to this country as an immigrant, and my mom worked in a dress shop in the old sweatshops, if you will, for most of her life in order to provide me the opportunity to be able to go to school.

I can remember going to that dress shop to meet her every day after school, and I would complain because, as all kids, I wanted to be outside. I did not want to be in a noisy place, and it was dirty. I remember those women, though. I remember them with their backs bent over their sewing machines just trying to pump out the dresses as quickly as they could so that they could provide for their family.

My mother would say to me when I would complain, "Take the opportunity for an education so you don't have to do this." Now, that is my mother's story, which is multiplied thousand and thousands of times around this country and this body that we all serve in here.

The fact is that that is what the American dream is about. It is being able to provide your kids with the future and have them have opportunities that you may not have had or to have the same opportunities.

What we are looking at in the House and what myself and my colleagues want to talk about a little bit tonight is, as this House of Representatives embarks on a process over the next few weeks, we are going to urge people to really pay very careful attention to the Republican proposals that are, in fact, going to slash education funding, slash that opportunity that so many of us were given to be able to go to school, to get an education, to expand our horizon, and they are going to slash that education funding by making incredibly devastating cuts in Federal student aid, education and training programs and the total elimination of the very cost-effective direct lending program. These are very shortsighted cuts. They are going to shut that door. It is going to close the educational opportunities for working families in this country.

So many of us have this opportunity through the use of student loans. These cuts not only jeopardize our Nation's economic competitiveness but they destroy the hopes and the dreams of working families who struggle to build a better future for their families, for their kids, and, quite frankly, what is most disturbing about the cuts in education is that they are going to finance, I mean, this is the worst of all possible reasons, to make cuts in such

a vital part of what our lives are all about, they are going to cut these education programs in order to finance a tax cut, a tax break for this country's wealthiest individuals, folks who have the opportunity.

This is the United States of America. Part of that American dream is to do well, to be able to have the wherewithal to have the good life. That we all understand. But folks at that upper end of the spectrum have the wherewithal to send their kids to school; they can do it, and they do not need help that working, middle-class families do in order to be able to make sure that their kids can get those interest-deferred student loans.

The whole budget debate is about priorities, about the deep cuts in education programs. These cuts, I will tell you, speak volumes about misplaced priorities; more than priorities, misplaced values.

We are trying to once again instill values in people in this country and in our youngsters to understand the value of education and of respect and of working hard and responsibility. Those are all the values that people like my colleagues have been taught, that I have been taught, that we often lament that maybe are not there in today's society.

But if we are going to look at what kinds of things we are doing here and where we place our values, how can we not place our values on education and making sure that our kids' futures are secure? So that the cuts speak volumes about misplaced values and priorities of the Gingrich revolution.

Let me just tell you about Connecticut. The Republican cuts translate into a loss of approximately \$325 billion in education and training funds over the next 10 years. Cuts in student aid and specifically reductions or the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy could mean 43,000 students from Connecticut would pay more for a college education, and by eliminating the interest-deferred Stafford loans, Republicans will add \$5,200 to the cost of an education for the average college student in Connecticut.

I have got to say \$5,200 may not be very much to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], but I will tell you that it is a heck of a lot of money, and it is plenty to the 15,000 working families that rely on this subsidy in my district.

According to the Department of Education, my district alone, the Third Congressional District in Connecticut, will lose \$9 billion in student support provided through the in-school interest subsidy.

That increase will devastate families like the Baxter family of West Haven, CT, a family that is struggling to put their children through college. This is the Baxter family right here in this photograph. I met Gail Baxter this spring at a student loan forum that I organized, and Gail told me that she was very, very worried about what cuts